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Letter dated 5 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit herewith a non-paper, compiled as a courtesy by the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, summarizing the ministerial-level briefing held on 21 February 2018 on the subject of the "Purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security", during the presidency of the State of Kuwait of the Security Council in February 2018 (see annex).

I am grateful for your contribution to the aforementioned briefing. We hope that the attached summary will serve as a reference in continued discussions on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour **Al Otaibi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-05759 (E) 180418

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Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Summary

Purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security

On 21 February 2018, the State of Kuwait, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of February 2018, convened a ministerial-level briefing on the "Purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security". A concept note (S/2018/85, annex), prepared by the State of Kuwait, was circulated prior to the meeting and aided in outlining its objectives and focus.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah. Other high-level participants included the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Jacek Czaputowicz, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Marcel Amon-Tanoh, the Permanent Representative of the United States of America and member of President Trump's Cabinet, Nikki Haley, and the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Mukhtar Tileuberdi.

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, briefed the Security Council on the subject and noted that the twenty-seventh anniversary of the liberation of the State of Kuwait from the forces of Saddam Hussein was a fitting backdrop to the discussion. He underscored that the Charter has stood the test of time and that its principles — the non-use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention, cooperation, self-determination and the sovereign equality of Member States — remain the foundation of international relations. He also stressed that the values that the Charter proclaims — equal rights, non-discrimination, tolerance and good-neighbourliness — remain guideposts for global harmony.

The Secretary-General focused his briefing on prevention and noted that Chapter VI of the Charter describes the tools available to the Security Council to prevent crises, through negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement and other peaceful measures and means. The Secretary-General also focused on mediation, referring to the High-level Advisory Board on Mediation, as well as peacekeeping, sanctions and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, as tools at the disposal of the Council to address the peace and security challenges our world faces today. He also stressed the urgent need for the Council to uphold its responsibility to bring about a political settlement on Syria.

Ban Ki-moon also addressed the Security Council, for the first time as a former Secretary-General. He noted that the world today faces an increasing number of emerging global challenges, including climate change, refugees, violent extremism, terrorism and nuclear proliferation. For the Council to effectively respond to non-traditional and transnational security challenges, it should undergo reforms to be more flexible in its decision-making process, he said. He added that he valued the Council's improved working relations with other interconnected pillars of the United Nations system and its increased focus on the concept of sustaining peace. He highlighted the situation in the Korean Peninsula, considering it the most serious and imminent challenge.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah, highlighted the liberation of the State of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation in February 1991 as a successful example

of the commitment and adherence of the international community and the Security Council to the purposes and principles of the Charter. He also drew attention to the tools at the disposal of the Council to shoulder its responsibilities, as laid out in Chapters VI, VII and VIII. He highlighted the importance of preventive diplomacy and the unity of the Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the important role that the Secretary-General can play in bringing any matter to the attention of the Council.

Security Council members reaffirmed, in a rich discussion, the importance of upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter and deliberated on how best to utilize the tools at the disposal of the Council, as outlined in Chapters VI, VII and VIII, to address the traditional and non-traditional peace and security challenges facing our world today.

A number of Security Council members referred to the liberation of the State of Kuwait as a prominent example of the pivotal role that the Council plays as a guardian of the maintenance of international peace and security, and to the fact that the State of Kuwait stands as a living reminder of what the Council, as an institution, can accomplish when it lives up to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

Short summaries of the individual statements made at the meeting can be found in the press release prepared by the Secretariat, which is available at https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13216.doc.htm. In addition, a full transcript of the meeting can be found in document S/PV.8185.